Message Text

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TAGS: SENV, EFIS, IWC-1, PE

SUBJECT: WHALE CONSERVATION MEASURES

REF: LIMA 1346

- 1. USG MOST PLEASED TO HEAR THAT GOP IS SERIOUS IN DESIRE TO JOIN IWC. USG PREPARED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. USG WILLING TO CONSIDER SENDING OBSERVER TO PERU TO IMPLEMENT INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME IF GOP WISHES. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE SOME SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.
- 2. USG CANNOT HOWEVER GIVE ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT FOR GOP QUOTAS OF 900 SPERM WHALES AND 300 BRYDES WHALES. IWC QUOTAS ON BOTH SPECIES IN AREA OFF PERU ARE ZERO. IN THE CASE OF SPERM WHALE, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE IWC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS FOUND THAT BOTH MALES AND FEMALES ARE MORE THAN 10 PERCENT BELOW MSY (MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD) LEVEL. THEY THUS MUST BE FULLY PROTECTED UNDER THE NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (NMP). HOWEVER, DATA ON SPERM WHALES IN ALL AREAS ARE UNDER REVIEW BY SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE. IN DECEMBER 1977, QUOTAS FOR SPERM WHALES IN NORTH PACIFIC WERE INCREASED. QUOTAS FOR SPERM WHALES IN SOUTHERN

HEMISPHERE WILL BE REVIEWED AT JUNE 1978 MEETING OF

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE. USG CANNOT PREDICT AT THIS TIME PROBABLE RESULT OF THAT REVIEW; HOWEVER, USG WILL SUPPORT RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, INCLUDING ANY CHANGES IN QUOTAS.

- 3. USG SUPPORT FOR A BRYDES WHALE QUOTA MAY BE MORE LIKELY. AGAIN, USG SUPPORT WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR A QUOTA ON BRYDES WHALES. ZERO QUOTA IS SET ON BRYDES WHALES IN AREA OFF PERU BECAUSE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SPECIES, AND THEREFORE, IMPOSSIBLE FOR SCIENTISTS TO RECOMMEND QUOTAS. HOWEVER, THE PRACTICE OF THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN TO ALLOW EXISTING WHALING BY MEMBER NATIONS TO CONTINUE EVEN IF LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE STOCKS IS AVAILABLE. IT IS POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, THAT IF PERU JOINS THE IWC, A QUOTA FOR BRYDES WHALES WOULD BE SET. IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR GOP TO PRESENT ANY AVAILABLE DATA ON BRYDES WHALES TO THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.
- 4. THERE IS AN IWC QUOTA OF 353 SEI WHALES FOR 1978 FOR THE AREA OFF PERU. IF PERU JOINS THE IWC, GOP WOULD HAVE RIGHT TO HAVE A PORTION OF THAT QUOTA.

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5. AT THE JUNE 12-21, 1978 MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, ALL SPECIES AND STOCKS OF WHALES WILL BE REVIEWED AND NEW DATA ASSESSED. ON THE BASIS OF THIS REVIEW AND ANALYSIS, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUOTAS FOR THE 1978/79 SEASON. IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE PERUVIANS TO SEND A SCIENTIST TO THE COMMITTEE MEETING, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO PROVIDE THEIR DATA AND OTHER INFORMATION TO DR. RAY GAMBELL, THE RED HOUSE, STATION ROAD, HISTON, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 4NP, U.K., OR TO DR. K. RADWAY ALLEN (CHAIRMAN OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE) IN AUSTRALIA. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT QUOTA RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE COULD CHANGE. USG IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE CONCERNING COMMERCIAL WHALING AS PART OF NMP. VANCE

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